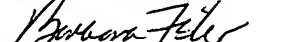


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail EV671736404US in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on or before the date shown below.


Barbara Fisher
Date: January 5, 2006

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT International Application of)
)
LOHBECK, Wilhelmus Christianus Maria, et al.)
)
Int. Appln No.: PCT/EP2004/051364)
)
Intl. Filing Date: 6 July 2004)
)
EXPANDING A TUBULAR ELEMENT TO DIFFERENT)
INNER DIAMETERS)

January 5, 2006

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box PCT (DO/EO/US)
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Prior to taking up the case for examination, please amend the application as follows:

Please replace the abstract with the following abstract: